

**MINUTES OF THE
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)
Ambulance Safety Subcommittee**

DATE & TIME:	March 2, 2006, 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	DOT, NHTSA FAA Bldg. 10 th Floor, MacCracken Room 800 Independence Ave. Washington, DC
MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Ms. Nancy Romano, AS Subcommittee Chair National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)*
	Department of Homeland Security <i>Preparedness Directorate</i> Mr. Doug Williams United States Fire Administration Ms. Cathy Broughton United States Fire Administration Mr. John Hoyle Emergency Management Institute Mr. Bill Troop* United States Fire Administration
	Department of Agriculture No Representation
	Department of Commerce (DOC) Wayne Strickland
	Department of Defense (DOD) No Representation
	Department of Interior No Representation
	Department of Justice (DOJ) No Representation

	Department of Labor No Representation
	Department of Transportation (DOT) Mr. Dave Bryson National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
	Department of Veteran Affairs No Representation
	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) No Representation
	Federal Communications Commission No Representation
	General Services Administration (GSA) No Representation
OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:	American Ambulance Association Mr. Kurt Krumperman
	Centronia Ambulance Corps Mr. Larry Wiersch*
	American Integrated Training Systems Mr. Billy Rutherford
	Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System Ms. Rene Fechter
	Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA Medical Center Ms. Ann McNeil*
	Tomko Insurance Agency Mr. Bill Leonard*

**Dial-in Participants*

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Nancy Romano called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and proceeded with introductions and welcomed the group. Ms. Romano asked for any announcements or handouts. Mr. Bill Leonard announced the upcoming Safetynet conference on June 7, 8 and 9 in Atlanta, GA. A feature of the conference will be the presentation of the NIOSH ambulance crash test data.

II. REVIEW OF PAST MEETING MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Romano asked for comments to the draft minutes from the December meeting. Dr. Nadine Levick made note that she participated in the meeting via conference call. A note was made to add Ms. Levick to the list of attendees and a motion was made to approve the December 2005 meeting minutes. With that provision, the motion was second and the minutes were approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Romano asked Mr. Billy Rutherford to provide a brief update on the use of Ambulance and Fire Engine simulators for training purposes. Mr. Rutherford visited the city of New York Fire Department's training center. The center purchased 2 fire apparatus simulators and 1 ambulance simulator to compliment their training curriculum. Mr. Rutherford reported that the training center was a well organized set up. The department purchased a top of line ambulance simulator that is primarily being used for orientation and 15 minute training sessions. The simulator is not currently being used for normal training scenarios. This has been a frustrating trend of organizations purchasing simulators but do not have the staff to properly implement and support the simulators. Mr. Rutherford referenced the model built by the military for use in procuring and implementing simulators. In addition to the simulators, organizations need to invest in the software to develop real training scenarios to meet the needs of the department as well as the staff to develop the justification, cost benefit analysis, and collection of data to show if the simulator is meeting the training needs.

Mr. Bill Leonard asked what the average price of a simulator is. Mr. Rutherford explained that it is like buying a car, (many different models and options) you can buy a single visual system for \$80 or a top of the line simulator like NYC. For just the ambulance simulator, it would be \$300 - \$400K plus the fire apparatus; it would be at least another \$400K. There is very little maintenance required because they are computer based systems. However, the use of simulators does require an ongoing effort to develop the scenarios unique to each department which would require the services of at least 1-2 full time people. In addition, the simulation center would require the services of a trainer to evaluate how the simulator should be implemented based on current teaching methods.

Ms. Levick asked for clarification of the staffing requirements for the collection of data to develop and maintain the scenarios.

Mr. Rutherford explained that the development of scenarios unique to the department and evaluation of participant effectiveness based on the scenarios would require 1-2 full time people with a training background.

J.P. Martin Chief of EMS Training for New York City indicated that simulator training encompasses approximately 2% of their training program. While it is a great tool, it is not the end all solution for driver training. He mentioned that they use the simulator for about 5-10 minute intervals throughout the week but do not exceed an hour total as there is a phenomenon that emulates sea sickness if you spend too much time in the simulator.

Dr. Nadine Levick provided an update on the new Fleet Vehicle Safety standard. The standard was approved by the American Society of Engineers on February 22, 2006, and should be available by the end of March. The purpose is to provide businesses with the

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minimum requirements for developing driver safety policies and procedures. The standard addresses factors within the operational environment that may increase the likelihood of roadway crashes. This standard is applicable to this forum as it is intended to include emergency vehicles.

For more information and a copy of the document when released, you may visit www.objectivesafety.net

Mr. Dave Bryson of NHTSA provided the group with a summary of how Drew Dawson stood down the current FICEMS in order to prepare for standing up the new FICEMS sometime in summer 2006. Mr. Bryson explained that since the Ambulance Safety Subcommittee is part of the original FICEMS and the FICEMS committee was stood down earlier in the day, it would be logical to stand down the Ambulance Safety Subcommittee as well. Mr. Bryson did offer NHTSA's assistance to explore ways to enable the Subcommittee to still meet on a regular basis to continue their successful dialog.

Ms. Romano stood down the current Ambulance Safety Subcommittee and agreed to look for ways to continue the work of the subcommittee in a separate forum.

Ms. Romano has agreed to continue chairing any future subcommittee meetings and will notify the subcommittee members via email once a practical option for doing so has been determined.

IV. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

This was the final meeting of the current Ambulance Safety subcommittee.

V. NEW and/or ONGOING ACTION ITEMS

All action items have been closed out.

VI. NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.